

state to remove the Confederate flag from the capitol grounds in the wake of the Emanuel AME Church shooting: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature of California encourages the United States Congress to identify the states that have a Confederate symbol embedded into their state's flag; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature memorializes the United States Congress to encourage states to ban the use of the former Confederate States of America symbolism and seals from all state flags, seals, and symbols; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature memorializes the United States Congress to ban the sale and display of any Confederate flag, including the Confederate Battle Flag, on federally owned properties and buildings and to urge those states that sell or display the flag at their capitols to have the flag removed; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature encourages the United States Congress to encourage businesses to urge their states to take down any Confederate flag, including the Confederate Battle Flag, from their capitols; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature encourages the donation of any effects representing the former Confederate States of America to local, state, and national museums; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Minority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California, and to the governors of the southern states including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

POM-121. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan opposing the United States Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to study or commission a study that, if consistent with the agency's past practices, many fear will serve as the first step towards the regulation of grills and barbecues; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 56

Whereas, Barbecues are an American tradition enjoyed by families from all walks of life across the country. Whether tailgating for a football game, hosting a backyard get-together, or just grilling a summer meal, barbecues are a quintessentially American experience and an opportunity to eat and socialize with family and friends; and

Whereas, Cooking outdoors on a grill during the summer saves electricity. Using a grill prevents the release of heat into the kitchen and other living spaces, while cooking indoors heats up a kitchen, forcing cooling systems, such as the refrigerator and air conditioner, to work harder and use more energy; and

Whereas, The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), our nation's environmental regulatory agency, has funded a University of California-Riverside student project to develop preventative technology to reduce emissions from residential barbecues. By funding this project, the EPA is apparently intent on finding a solution to a problem that does not exist and demonstrating an unnecessary interest and concern over the impact of backyard barbecues on public health; and

Whereas, Based on the EPA's past practices, today's study, no matter how small, is a concern to Michiganders and Americans, as it is inevitably the first step towards tomorrow's regulation of this American pastime. To fulfill its mission to protect human health and the environment, the EPA's primary tool has been, and continues to be, regulatory mandates that time and again ignore the financial, economic, and social burdens to the state and the country. The regulation of barbecues would be the latest, egregious example of overreach by the EPA; and

Whereas, Funding such a study is a poor use of taxpayer dollars. In the face of record national debts, annual budget deficits, and other profound problems the country is facing, surely the federal government can better use our resources than on a study of grills and backyard barbecues: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we oppose the United States Environmental Protection Agency's efforts to study or commission a study that, if consistent with the agency's past practices, many fear will serve as the first step towards the regulation of grills and barbecues; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-122. A resolution passed by the City Council of San Jose, California, urging the United States Congress to pass H.R. 2140, the "Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2015", to hold individuals who commit egregious human rights violations accountable by imposing financial and travel sanctions upon those citizens of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and their family members, who are complicit in human rights abuse committed in Vietnam; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

POM-123. A resolution passed by the City Council of Sebastopol, California urging passage of meaningful, common sense gun control measures; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1616. A bill to provide for the identification and prevention of improper payments and the identification of strategic sourcing opportunities by reviewing and analyzing the use of Federal agency charge cards (Rept. No. 114-174).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2044. A bill to prohibit the use of certain clauses in form contracts that restrict the ability of a consumer to communicate regarding the goods or services offered in interstate commerce that were the subject of the contract, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-175).

By Mr. CORKER, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Report to accompany S. 2152, a bill to establish a comprehensive United States Government policy to encourage the efforts of countries in sub-Saharan Africa to develop an appropriate mix of power solutions, including renewable energy, for more broadly distributed electricity access in order to support poverty reduction, promote development outcomes, and drive economic growth, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-176).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. 2368. An original bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve the efficiency of the Medicare appeals process, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 114-177).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CORKER for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Catherine Ebert-Gray, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Solomon Islands and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Vanuatu.

Nominee: Catherine Ebert-Gray.

Post: Papua New Guinea.

(The following is a list of all members of my immediate family and their spouses. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: None.
2. Spouse: Ian S. Gray: None.
3. Children: Thomas F. Gray: None; Claire E. Gray: None.
4. Parents: William A. & Myrna Ebert: \$50.00, 5/2011, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 8/2011, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 9/2011, Republican Senate Committee; \$35.00, 10/2011, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$25.00, 1/2012, Republican Senate Committee; \$20.00, 3/2012, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 7/2012, Mitt Romney; \$20.00, 8/2012, Mitt Romney; \$20.00, 8/2012, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 8/2012, Paul Ryan; \$25.00, 9/2012, Mitt Romney; \$100.00, 9/2012, Mitt Romney; \$25.00, 1/2013, Tea Party; \$25.00, 2/2013, Republican National Committee; \$20.00, 2/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$25.00, 3/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$25.00, 3/2013, Conservative Majority Fund; \$20.00, 4/2013, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 5/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$25.00, 5/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$30.00, 6/2013, Republican National Committee; \$20.00, 6/2013, Tea Party; \$25.00, 8/2013, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 10/2013, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 10/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$20.00, 10/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$20.00, -11/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$20.00, 11/2013, Tea Party; \$20.00, 12/2013, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$25.00, 1/2014, Republican National Committee; \$20.00, 2/2014, Republican Nat'l Congress Committee; \$20.00, 2/2014, Tea Party; \$25.00, 3/2014, Draft Ben Carson; \$50.00, 3/2014, Draft Ben Carson; \$20.00, 4/2014, Tea Party; \$25.00, 5/2014, Draft Ben Carson; \$25.00, 5/2014, Draft Ben Carson; \$25.00, 5/2014, Republican Senate Committee; \$20.00, 6/2014, Tea Party; \$20.00, 6/2014, Tea Party (2 checks); \$20.00, 6/2014, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 6/2014, Republican National Committee; \$25.00, 6/2014, Republican Party of Wisconsin; \$20.00, 7/2014, Republican National Committee; \$20.00, 7/2014, Tea Party; \$35.00, 7/2014,